

News Release

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Release

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Imagine That! Wraps Up Science Camp 2000 at the USGS

Saltwater or freshwater? Grassy or sandy? During Science Camp 2000 at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), campers huddled around the remains of organisms taken from sediment core samples from Florida Bay mud banks. They were trying to determine what kind of environment existed when the bottom-dwelling organisms lived over 100 years ago.

Lynn Brewster-Wingard, USGS paleontologist, and Sara Schwede, an Environmental Careers Organization intern, fascinated the children during Imagine That! with their discussion on the USGS South Florida Ecosystem History Project and the Everglades restoration efforts. Imagine That! was the fourth and final session of the highly successful science camp developed by the USGS and the Reston Association for children ages 8-12.

Charlie Morrison, now retired from the USGS, spoke about his travels to Antarctica. Campers received an insider's view of scientists working at the South Pole.

During Imagine That!, campers toured the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum where they had a "real cool" time controlling a Cessna aircraft in "How Things Fly." They also took a hike in the Scotts Run Nature Preserve in McLean.

Other educational activities during the session included learning about volcanoes in a science lab by watching a chemical reaction between baking soda and vinegar. The children also boated on Lake Anne, worked on a camp newspaper and enjoyed a cookout.

For more information on the Reston Association's Science Camps, please contact the Reston Association's Registrar's office at 703-435-6551. Registration for next summer's camps begin in late February.

(more)

As the nation's largest water, earth and biological science and civilian mapping agency, the USGS works in cooperation with more than 2,000 organizations across the country to provide reliable, impartial scientific information to resource managers, planners, and other customers. This information is gathered in every state by USGS scientists to minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters, to contribute to the conservation and the sound economic and physical development of the nation's natural resources, and to enhance the quality of life by monitoring water, biological, energy, and mineral resources.

USGS

(Note to Reporters/Editors: If interested in obtaining digital photographs of the activities mentioned in this news release, please contact Cheryl O'Brien at 703-648-5929 with your e-mail address.)